

FREE MASONRY



ODD FELLOWSHIP

Continued from last week.

JOINING If any member shall be excluded from his lodge or shall withdraw himself from it without having complied with its by-laws, or with the general regulations of the Craft, he shall not be eligible to any other lodge, until that lodge has been made acquainted with his former neglect, so that the brethren may be enabled to exercise their discretion as to his admission.

Whenever a member of any lodge shall resign, or shall be excluded, or whenever at a future time he may require it, he shall be furnished with a certificate stating the circumstances under which he left the lodge; and such certificate is to be produced to any other lodge of which he is proposed to be admitted a member, previous to the ballot being taken.

JOPPA. There is an old tradition among Masons, that the banks of the river at Joppa were so steep as to render it necessary for the workmen to assist each other up by a peculiar locking of the right hand, which is still preserved in the Mark-Master's degree.

JOSEPH. Freemasons are accustomed to esteem Joseph as one of their greatest lights, because of his numerous practical virtues. He forgave his brethren freely when he possessed the power of punishing them for their inhumanity towards him, he succored his aged father in his distress, and by his superior wisdom and discernment, he saved a whole people from destruction. These are all masonic virtues of the first class, and having been beautifully illustrated in the character and conduct of Joseph, his example is recommended to our consideration, as an useful lesson more powerful than precept, and more efficacious than admonition.

JUSTICE. Justice, the boundary of right, constitutes the cement of civil society. This virtue in a great measure constitutes real goodness, and is therefore represented as the perpetual study of the accomplished Mason. Without the exercise of justice universal confusion would ensue, lawless force might overcome the principles of equity, and social intercourse no longer exist.

JUSTIFICATION. We do not hesitate to appeal to the world in justification of the purity of our moral system. Our Constitutions are well known; we have submitted them freely to general investigation. We solemnly

avouch them as the principles by which we are governed, the foundation on which we build, and the rules by which we work.

We challenge the most severe critic, the most practiced moralist, the most perfect Christian, to point out anything in them inconsistent with good manners, fair morals, or pure religion.

KEY. This symbol may be improved to impress upon the mind of every brother the importance of those secrets which have been transmitted through thirty centuries amidst bitter persecutions, for the benefit of the sons of light. As we have thus received them, untarnished by the touch of profane curiosity, and unimpaired by the revolution of time and empires, let us deliver them, in all their purity and perfection, to succeeding brethren, confident that they will never be divulged to such as are unworthy.

KEYSTONE. This refers to the keystone of the Royal Arch, called by some the cape-stone, because they erroneously suppose that a knowledge of the principles of the arch is not so old as the building of the Temple of Jerusalem. It was known, however, to the Egyptians several centuries before Solomon flourished, as modern discoveries fully testify.

KING. The first officer in the Royal Arch Chapter, commonly called the First Principal. He represents Zerubbabel, the Governor of Judea, at the building of the second temple.

KING NAME. The name of God includes all things. He who pronounces it shakes heaven and earth, and inspires the very angels with astonishment and terror. There is a sovereign authority in this name: it governs the world by its power. The other names and surnames of the Deity are ranged about it like officers and soldiers about their sovereigns and generals.

From this King Name they receive their orders and obey.

KINGLY POWER. The kingly power was restored in the person of Zerubbabel, who sprang from the royal lines of David, and the tribe of Judah; nor was a vestige thereof again effaced until after the destruction of the city and temple by the Romans, under Titus, in the year 76 of the present era, thus verifying the remarkable prophecy of Jacob; delivered in Egypt above one thousand years before, that the sceptre should not depart from Judah, nor a law-giver from between his feet, until Shiloh came.

KNEELING. When we bow the knee, it represents our fall in Adam; and when we rise, having received the benefit of prayer addressed to the throne of grace, it is a type of our restoration in Christ by the grace of God, through whom we are able to lift up our hearts to heaven. The candidate for Masonry is directed to bend the knee with a similar reference.

(History and Cyclopaedia of Freemasonry, by Macoy Oliver. Page 557-558-559-560 and 561.)

To Be Continued.

DR. POWELL, IS ONE OF SOUTH MISSOURI'S ABLEST PHYSICIANS; HE IS WORTHY OF HIS PROFESSION.

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Law for the Soul.

Our entire religious government is based upon principals that promote the highest good to all mankind, especially those who will abide under its protection—The love of Liberty which Christ had for us, Was the inspiration of their adoption and the foundation upon which our religion should rest—And the christian fathers of the early days of christianity, were very zealously careful that their life should remain on this rock of principals for the benefit of the people, and for the people—and that the inalienable rights, of all should be guarded and perpetuated in love of all men—Their religion was not a seditious declaration of angry threats, or a boastful exaltation of arrogant defiance, but a religion of liberty in Christ Jesus; free from oppression. That Noble character breathed the Spirit of Liberty and freedom—for the sacred rights of all men in every clime—This country of ours enjoys the distinction of being the most liberal in her laws to the word religion of all governments, known to history. Our forefathers kept constantly in mind the rights and liberties of the people of this Grand country for which there was a many a drop of blood shed to gain their independance—Remembering even upon the bloody battle fields, that Jesus had shed his precious blood; to them and us, and all who would be free—Liberty. Those principals of the early day christian is far bedimed by the dark cloud of craftiness; If we look back upon the dark past of a few years, if you are an honest christian—The blush of shame cannot help but arise to your cheeks when you survey the fields of time, darkened by deeds of dishonor, and outrage—Committed for selfishness and supremacy.

May God hasten the day and time when every man can sit under own vine and figtree, under the Law and Liberty of Christ forever,

DEPTHS OF MERCY.

This, very few men if any, can comprehend. God is so merciful, not only to the just, but also to the sinners, that if they could but only catch one ray, or spark of this His kindness toward them at that moment they surely would turn their back upon the world, and their face toward God and his Christ, with this language, "God be merciful to me a sinner"

THERE WAS a time when the spirit that is now called Satan had his abode in the realms of Heav'n's day—And did enjoy the presence of God Almighty, and the company of the Angelic Host of Heaven, but he was not satisfied with the great pleasures of having the third ruling power in the Paradise of God. He must try to rob God of His Glory, and take his Throne if possible.

But this he was not able to do; and so he was cast to earth, and once here he became as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour—He is no more satisfied now than when he was in Heaven, and so it is with those that follow his pernicious ways they are discontented, seeking the advantage of their fellowmen, just as Satan tried to do when he was in Heaven: But we trust the day may soon come when we as a people of God may be all one:

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